

HOUSE RESOLUTION 45
By Scroggs

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Coach Mike Irby and the 1996 Houston High School girls' soccer team on winning the state championship.

WHEREAS, originating in Great Britain, soccer is one of the most demanding of athletic competitions, requiring many hours of hard practice and precision skill in order to be successful; and

WHEREAS, the talented 1996 Houston High School team, which won the state championship, is clearly a squad which has reflected the finest traditions of the sport; and

WHEREAS, in the final-four round of the state tournament, played in Brentwood, Houston impressively defeated Harpeth Hall 5-1 in the semifinals and Knoxville Farragut 5-1 in the finals; and

WHEREAS, this was the Lady Mustangs first state championship in girls' soccer; and

WHEREAS, despite playing the highest-ranked schedule in Tennessee, the team had an enviable overall record of 22-1, an exceptional winning percentage of .957; and

WHEREAS, in the prestigious final Umbro/National Soccer Coaches Association of America Poll, Houston High was ranked as the fifth best team in the United States and the best team in the Southeast region; and

95597454

95597454

003920

00392026

WHEREAS, in addition to their numerous on-field accomplishments, the team was specially honored by the Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association for achieving a team grade point average of 3.1 for the fall, 1996 semester; and

WHEREAS, highly regarded Head Coach Mike Irby and his capable Assistant Coach Jason Manuel have expertly prepared the squad for the rigors of championship competition and inspired them to achieve success; and

WHEREAS, the Lady Mustangs have been fortunate to have strong senior leadership from their captains: Karin Brett, who was chosen Parade Magazine All-American and State Tournament Most Valuable Player; Tiffany Marsh, Meredith Mayo, and Kirstin Olson; and

WHEREAS, each of the other members of the team worked very hard and did not hesitate to make personal sacrifices for the good of the squad. The other members of the team include juniors Melissa Bell, Beth Goodin, Marilyn Matthews, Jessica Osborn, Linsey Romine, and Kate Saulters; sophomores Allison Ashby, Lilli Bewley, Meghan Chismark, Christy Coker, Nancy Cotten, Jessica Hester, Lauren Price, and Tiffany Thompson; and freshmen Meredith Hidingier and Sarah Parotte; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that we pause in our deliberations to recognize and honor this outstanding team; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE-HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, That we honor and congratulate Coach Mike Irby and the 1996 Houston High School girls' soccer team and wish them well in their future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That appropriate copies of this resolution be prepared for presentation to the school and each person named above, with this final clause omitted from such copies.